

Sub 47

20. (Twice amended) A reusable directionally sealed container comprising a container with two sealing means and two closures which are directionally peelable, wherein each closure is positioned on the container to contact a sealing means and wherein each closure comprises a first and second layer of different polymeric films, wherein each layer has an upper and lower surface and a bonded and non-bonded edge, the upper surface of the first layer is peelably attached to the lower surface of the second layer at a separation interface, and wherein each closure has at least one portion of the lower surface of the first layer at the non-bonded edge and at least one portion of the upper surface of the second layer at the non-bonded edge which is not adhered to the container, and wherein the force of the container contents is applied distant from the bonded edge of the first and second layers.

Please cancel claim 18 and 19.

Please refer to the attached Appendix for the marked-up version of the amended specification and claims.

REMARKS

Applicants request entry of the foregoing amendment. Claims 1-22 are pending in the application. Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-17 and 20-22 will be pending in the application.

Applicants have amended the specification to correct obvious typographical errors. In addition, Applicants have amended the specification and submitted corrected drawings in order to conform the original drawings to the original specification. Specifically, page 17 of the specification has been amended to clarify that the separation interface is identified as feature 33 in Fig. 3, and that the non-bonded portion of the closure is identified as feature 36 in Fig. 3. On page 18 of the specification, the description of Fig. 6 has been amended in order to conform the features of the drawing to those described in the specification and shown in Fig. 5,

since Fig. 6 illustrates the closure of Fig. 5 in the sealed position. The numbered features illustrated in Fig. 8 have been amended to conform the drawing to the description. Specifically, both the drawing and description on page 18 now identify the adhesive as 83, the container as 84, and the lid as 86. Junction 85 identifies the point at which the force of the contents of the container is applied to the closure. The specification at pages 18 to 19 has been amended to correctly identify the numbers of the features shown in Fig. 10 and Fig. 11.

With regard to the corrected drawings submitted herewith, Fig. 6 has been corrected to conform the numbered features shown in Fig. 5 to those same features shown in the sealed position in Fig. 6. Fig. 7 has been corrected assign numerical identifiers to features already shown and described in the specification. Fig. 8 has been corrected to eliminate the assignment of two distinct features to one numerical identifier (85). Fig. 11 has been corrected to clarify that the container is a box, as described in the originally filed application. The outline of the box is shown by the dashed lines. Applicants will submit formal drawings upon receipt of the Notice of Allowance.

The foregoing amendment to the specification and corrected drawings merely clarifies what was disclosed in the originally filed application and/or conforms the specification to the originally disclosed drawings. No new matter has been added to the specification.

Claims 1, 15 and 20 have been amended to correctly recite that it is the lower surface of the first layer and the upper surface of the second layer that has a portion not bonded to the article. Similarly, claims 8, 9, 13 and 14 have been amended to clarify where the non-bonded portion is located on each of the first and second layers.

Applicants' claimed invention is a closure with a directionally peelable opening feature. The closure has a first and second layer of different polymeric films which are peelably attached to each other at a separation interface. When the closure is secured to an article, one edge portion of the outer surfaces of the first and second layers is bonded to the article. Another edge portion of the surfaces is not bonded to the

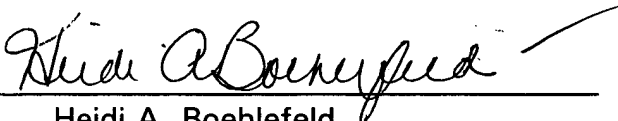
article. The bonded edge provides easy separation and opening of the closure along the separation interface. The force of the contents of the container is applied distant from the bonded edge of the first and second layers.

None of the reference previously cited by the Examiner, Genske et al. (5,160,767), Hayward (5,353,943), Greer et al. (6,032,854) or Freedman (4,925,714) either alone, or in combination, disclose, teach or suggest Applicants' claimed invention.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request allowance of claims 1-17 and 20-22.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 8:

Please amend the specification by deleting the second full paragraph on page 8 with the following paragraph:

In another embodiment, closure may be prepared by extruding three [of] or more [layer of] layers for which there is a separation interface. For instance, the first layer may have one or more additional layers which are [ever] also coextruded with the first and second layer or which is laminated to the first layer. In reference to Fig [10a] 1a, a peelable closure 10a comprises a first layer 11 and a second layer 12. The upper surface of first layer 11 is peelably attached to the lower surface of second layer 12 at separation interface 13. First layer 10 is also adhered to additional (e.g. a printable layer) layer 14. The second layer may also have one or more additional layers which could be coextruded or laminated. Additionally, both the first and second layer may have on ro more additional [layer] layers. These additional layers may be prepared from one or more of the materials used to make the first or second layers.. Additionally the additional layers may [contained] contain other polymers which improve properties such as the [adhesive] adhesion of the bonding material to the first [of] or second layer. The additives may also be antistatic, antioxidant and processing agents. In one embodiment, the additives are present to improve printability. The additional layers may be tie layers to improve adhesion of the first or second film to the additional layers. In one embodiment, the additional additive is an ethylene vinyl acetate resin. The ethylene [vinylacetate] vinyl acetate is generally present in an amount from about 20% to about 80%, or from about 25% to about 75%, or from about 40% to about

60% by weight. These additional layers typically [has] have a thickness of about 0.1 to about 2, or from about 0.2 to about 1, or from about 0.3 to about 0.6 mil.

On page 14:

Please delete the following paragraph from page 14 of the specification:

Example 2

A two layer coextruded peelable film is prepared as described in Example 1 with the following composition.

On pages 15-16:

Please renumber each of Examples 3-5 on pages 15 to 16 of the specification as Examples 2-4, respectively.

On page 17:

Please delete the first full paragraph on page 17, and replace it with the following paragraph:

[In] Fig. 3[,] illustrates a cross sectional view of the closure. Closure 30 has first layer 31 and second layer 32 peelably attached at a separation interface [36] 33. On the surface of layer 31 and layer 32 is bonded pressure sensitive adhesive 34. The pressure sensitive adhesive covers all but a portion 36 of the surface. This portion is non-bonding to the container. The adhesive is releasably bonded to a silicone release liner 35. It is believed that this non-bonding portion of the surface affects the directional peelability of the closure. It is believed that a vacuum forms between the peelable layers at the separation interface. This vacuum is believed to increase the force needed to begin peeling. On the portions of the closure where the bonding material covers polymer layers[. This] , the bonded edge provides easy separation and opening

of the closure along the separation interface. Since the force to start the peel is applied at the bonded edge, air can enter as the separation interface is peeled. A thumbnail is sufficient to begin the opening of the closure.

On page 18:

Please delete the first three paragraphs on page 18 and replace them with the following three paragraphs:

In Fig. 6, the closure has been folded over and has sealed the container. Adhesive [63] 53 seals the flap [64] 56 of the container. By the placement of the non-bonding zone [65] 55, the contents of the container push against the closure at a point distant from the edge of the separation interface of the closure. However, when the container is to be opened, flap [64] 56 is pulled and the closure easily peels along its separation interface.

In Fig. 7, an alternative container, bag 74, is sealed with a closure. The closure is made up of first layer 71 and second layer 72. A non-bonding portion of the closure is shown so that the force of the bag contents is distant 75 from the separation interface 76.

In Fig. 8, a container such as those used for food products, like applesauce or pudding is sealed with a closure. A closure is formed into a gasket and adhered to the container [83] 84 by heat sealing or adhesive 83. The closure is made up of first layer 81 and second layer 82. The closure is bonded to the lid 86, which may be any lid such as plastic or foil. The closure has a non-bonding zone so that the force of the container contents is applied distant from the separation interface or at junction 85.

On page 18-19:

Please delete the last paragraph of page 18, beginning on line 27 of page 18 and carrying over to line 3 of page 19, and replace it with the following paragraph:

In another embodiment, shown in Fig. 10, envelope 101 has flaps 102 and 103. Closures 104 and 105 are bonded to flaps 102 and 103 respectively. On the first use of envelope [10] 101, flap 103 is tucked into the envelope and flap 102 with closure 104 is used to seal the envelope. Upon second use flap 103 with closure 105 seals the envelope and flap 102 with a portion of closure 104 is tucked into envelope [100] 101.

On page 19:

Please delete the last full paragraph on page 19 and replace it with the following paragraph:

A reusable box is illustrated in Fig. 11. Box [111] 110 has flap 111 bonded to closure 113 and flap 112 bonded to closure 114. In first use flap 111 and closure 113 are use to seal the [envelope] box. Flap 112 is folded under. For its second use box [111] 110 is sealed by flap 112 and closure 114. During [during] second use flap 111 with a portion of closure 113 is folded under into the box.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Twice amended) A closure with a directionally peelable opening feature for articles comprising a first and second layer of different polymeric films, wherein each layer has an upper and lower surface and a bonded edge and a non-bonded edge, the upper surface of the first layer is peelably attached to the lower surface of the second layer at a separation interface, provided that when the closure is used to secure an article, at least one portion of the [upper] lower surface of the first layer at the non-bonded edge and at least a portion of the [lower] upper surface of the second

layer at the non-bonded edge is not attached to the article.

8. (Amended) The closure of claim 1 wherein the lower surface of the first layer and the upper surface of the [first and] second layer are bonded to a pressure sensitive adhesive, wherein a portion near [one] the non-bonded edge of [one] each of the first [or] and second layer is free of adhesive.

9. (Amended) The closure of claim 1 wherein the lower surface of the first layer and the upper surface of the second layer are bonded to a heat sealable material, wherein a portion near [one] the non-bonded edge of each of the first [or] and second layer is free of heat sealable material.

10. (Twice amended) A directionally peelable closure for articles comprising a first and second layer of different polyolefin films, wherein each layer has an upper and lower surface and a bonded edge and a non-bonded edge, the upper surface of the first layer is peelably attached to the lower surface of the second layer at a separation interface and wherein the separation interface between the first and second layers has a peel strength in the range of about 30 to about 400 grams per 1-inch width at 90° peel, provided that when the closure is used to secure an article, at least one portion of the [upper] lower surface of the first layer at the non-bonded edge and at least a portion of the [lower] upper surface of the second layer at the non-bonded edge is not attached to the article.

13. (Amended) The closure of claim 10 wherein the lower surface of the first layer and the upper surface of the [first and] second layer are bonded to a pressure sensitive adhesive, wherein a portion near [one] the non-bonded edge of [one] each of the first [or] and second layer is free of adhesive.

14. (Amended) The closure of claim 10 wherein the lower surface of the first

layer and the upper surface of the [first and] second layer are bonded to a heat sealable material, wherein a portion near [one] the non-bonded edge of [one] each of the first [or] and second layer is free of heat sealable material.

15. (Twice amended) A container sealed with a directionally peelable closure, comprising an article which is articulated to provide for sealing with a closure and a closure adhered to the article, wherein the closure comprises a first and second layer of different polymeric films, wherein each layer has an upper and lower surface and a bonded edge and a non-bonded edge, the upper surface of the first layer is peelably attached to the lower surface of the second layer at a separation interface, and wherein the closure has at least one portion of the [upper] lower surface of the first layer at the non-bonded edge and at least a portion of the [lower] upper surface of the second layer at the non-bonded edge which is not adhered to the container, wherein the force of the container contents is applied distant from the bonded edge of the first and second layers[along the separation interface].

20. (Twice amended) A reuseable directionally sealed container comprising a container with two sealing means and two closures which are directionally peelable, wherein each closure is positioned on the container to contact a sealing means and wherein each closure comprises a first and second layer of different polymeric films, wherein each layer has an upper and lower surface and a bonded and non-bonded edge, the upper surface of the first layer is peelably attached to the lower surface of the second layer at a separation interface, and wherein each closure has at least one portion of the [upper] lower surface of the first layer at the non-bonded edge and at least one portion of the [lower] upper surface of the second layer at the non-bonded edge which is not adhered to the container, and wherein the force of the container contents is applied distant from the bonded edge of the first and second layers[along the separation interface].